

REMARKS

Applicant has canceled claims 1-14 without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter, and added new claims 15-26 to protect additional aspects related to the present invention. Claims 15-26 remain pending and under current examination.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated respectively by Onishi (JP 04-037,132) ("Onishi") and Lee (KR-2000020897) ("Lee"); rejected claims 2 and 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Onishi or Lee; and objected to claims 3, 6, and 7, but indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has canceled claims 1-14 without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter. Therefore, the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-5, and 8, as well as the objections to claims 3, 6, and 7, have been rendered moot. Furthermore, Applicant notes that the Examiner failed to examine claims 9-14 on the merits. Even though claims 9-14 were cancelled, new claims are presented that contain the elements of cancelled claims 9-14, and their allowability will be discussed below with reference to new claims 15-26.

Regarding New Claims:

New claims 15 - 26 introduce no new limitations that were not previously presented. New independent claim 15 comprises the elements of cancelled claims 1 and 3. New claims 16-18 depend from claim 15 and correspond to claims 2, 4, and 5, respectively. New independent claim 19 comprises the elements of cancelled claims 1 and 6. New independent claim 20 comprises the elements of cancelled claims 1 and 7. New independent claim 21 comprises the elements of cancelled claims 8 and 11. New claims 22-25 depend from claim 21 and correspond to claims 9, 10, 12 and 13. New independent claim 26 comprises the elements of cancelled claims 8 and 14. Therefore, new claims 15-20 should all be allowable in light of the

Examiner's comments regarding the allowability of claims 3, 6, and 7. Also, new claims 21-26 should also be allowable since cancelled claims 11 and 14 contained similar recitations to objected-to claims 3 and 7, respectively.

Since the Examiner indicated that claims 3, 6, and 7 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, Applicant deems new claims 15-26 in condition for allowance.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests reconsideration of the application and withdrawal of the objections and rejections. Pending claims 15-26 are in condition for allowance, and Applicant requests a favorable action.

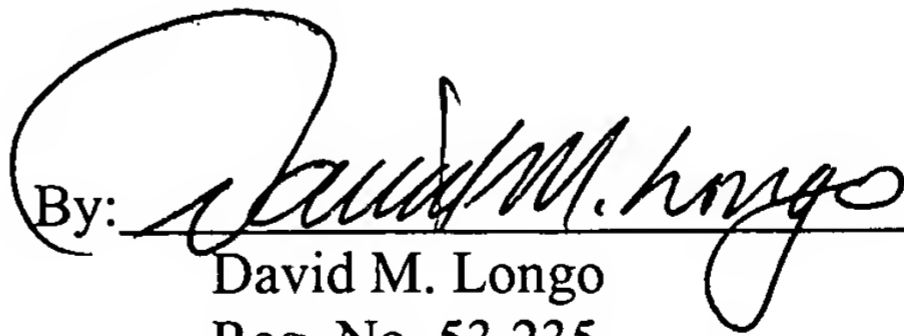
Should the Examiner continue to dispute the patentability of the claims after consideration of this Amendment, Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the undersigned representative by telephone to discuss any remaining issues or to resolve any misunderstandings.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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